



**MINUTES OF THE  
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)**

<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>	March 2, 2006, 10:30 a.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	DOT, NHTSA FAA Bldg. 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor, MacCracken Room 800 Independence Ave. Washington, DC
<b>MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:</b>	<b>Department of Homeland Security</b> <i>Preparedness Directorate</i> Mr. Doug Williams United States Fire Administration  Ms. Cathy Broughton United States Fire Administration  Mr. John Hoyle Emergency Management Institute
	<b>Department of Agriculture</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Commerce (DOC)</b> Wayne Strickland
	<b>Department of Defense (DOD)</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</b>  Mr. Dan Kavanaugh, HRSA, EMSC  Mr. Sid Caesar, Indian Health Services

	Mr. Dean Ross, Indian Health Services
	<b>Department of Interior</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Justice (DOJ)</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Labor</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Transportation (DOT)</b> Mr. Drew Dawson, Acting Chairman National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  Mr. Dave Bryson, NHTSA  Ms. Susan McHenry, NHTSA  Ms. Laurie Flaherty, NHTSA  Ms. Julie Krueger, NHTSA  Mr. Gamunu Wijetunge, NHTSA
	<b>Department of Veteran Affairs</b> No Representation
	<b>National Institute for Occupational Safety &amp; Health</b> Ms. Nancy Romano*
	<b>General Services Administration (GSA)</b> No Representation
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:</b>	<b>American Ambulance Association</b> Mr. Kurt Krumperman
	<b>National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)</b> Mr. Dave Finger
	<b>Yale University School of Medicine/Emergency Medicine</b> Sandy Bogucki, MD, PhD

	<b>International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)</b> Mr. Lucian Deaton
	<b>Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System</b> Ms. Rene Fechter
	<b>Tomko Insurance Agency</b> Mr. Bill Leonard*
	<b>International Association of Fire Fighters</b> Mr. Michael Pease*
	<b>American Integrated Training Systems</b> Mr. Billy Rutherford

*\*Dial-In Participants*

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS/HANDOUTS**

Mr. Drew Dawson, Acting Chairman, welcomed the group and asked if there were any announcements or handouts. Mr. Wayne Strickland (DOC) provided a Biz card CD containing information on the National Technical Information System (NTIS).

Handouts:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Emergency Medical Services Division, February 2006 Report

## **II. REVIEW OF PAST MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Dawson requested a review and comments to the December 2005 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was passed and the FICEMS minutes for the December meeting were approved.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

There were no reports of old business or open action items that were discussed.

## **IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Ambulance Safety

Ms. Nancy Romano, Chairman – Ambulance Safety Subcommittee - Ms. Romano provided a brief overview of the agenda for the afternoons Subcommittee meeting to include discussions by Mr. Rutherford on EMS Simulators and his visit to the EMS Division, Fire Department, City of New York, and Ms. Nadine Levick to provide an overview of the Fleet Vehicle safety standard.

## **V. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

### **HRSA – Mr. Dan Kavanaugh**

- Mr. Kavanaugh reported on the progress of an interagency agreement with Indian Health Services to include a pediatric training and education component for EMS that will serve Indian and Native American reservations.
- HRSA has funded 56 EMSC state Partnership Grants to improve Pediatric EMS care. 47 of these grants are new and nine are continuations. The funding can be used to for data activities for things like the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS).
- The pediatric emergency care applied research network will be renewed in September. 21 Hospital emergency departments working on handling of Pediatric Emergency Care. Focus is on prehospital pediatric emergency care.
- 16 ongoing targeted issue grants related to Injury prevention and rehabilitation as it pertains to Pediatric Emergency Care.
- Mr. Kavanaugh also reported that HRSA had been zeroed out of the President's 2006 budget but was put back in at a slight increase. This year again they have been zeroed out for 2007.
- A new competition for the Coordinating Data Center for the Research Network will be issued in September. One award will be made for \$950,000 for three years.

### **Indian Health Services: Mr. Sid Caesar**

- Mr. Caesar announced a change in the name of the Indian Health Services Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services Office to the Office of Emergency Services.
- Mr. Caesar reiterated the formation of the interagency agreement with HRSA that will bring LCDR Betty Hastings to Indian Health Services.
- Also, IHS is in the process of building a Director's Coordination Center to better manage disaster coordination with the 564 tribes, the 12 IHS area offices and Federal and State government offices.

### **Department Of Commerce (NTIS): Mr. Wayne Strickland**

- Mr. Strickland is working to disseminate emergency preparedness information to as many sources as possible. In particular, NTIS is in the process of rolling out a collection of state specific information in a CD-ROM.

### **DHS/USFA: Mr. Doug Williams**

- Mr. Williams announced the formal departure of John Brasko as the Training Specialist and Program Manager for the Emergency Medical Services program. Mr. Williams is currently filling that role on an interim basis.
- The USFA is under a directive to reduce a 2-week residential program in each of the eleven curricula to a 6 day program.
- Mr. Williams reported that the Management Community Health Risk program has been well received and is progressing nicely. It is a class that the community or health organizations can use for prevention related issues.

NIOSH: Nancy Romano

- Ms. Nancy Romano provided an update on the ongoing Ambulance safety project. They will begin Human Factors testing in May or June of 2006. Preliminary crash data will be presented at the NFCA World Safety conference in Orlando in June of 2006 and data will also be shared at the EMS Expo 2006.

NHTSA: Mr. Drew Dawson/ Ms. Susan McHenry/Mr. Dave Bryson/ Ms. Laurie Flaherty/  
Mr. Gamunu Wijetunge/ Ms. Julie Krueger

- Mr. Dawson announced the transition of the current EMS Division at NHTSA to the Office of EMS which is an increase in current responsibilities in recognizing the importance of EMS.
- Mr. Dawson reported that the 2006 NHTSA Office of EMS budget is level funded. The exception is the additional funding for the establishment of the National 911 office to be housed at NHTSA.
- The National 911 grant program is designed to assist public safety answering points as approved in 2004. \$43.5 Million has been appropriated for the program beginning in 2008. The appropriation is from the sale of the old analog spectrum and uses the proceeds from that auction of that analog spectrum by the NTIA.
- Ms. Susan McHenry reported that the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center is fully operational through the University of Utah at [www.NEMSIS.org](http://www.NEMSIS.org). Plans are in the works for five states to fully implement NEMSIS and provide EMS data in the coming year. Those states are; North Carolina, Mississippi, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and North Dakota. The February 2<sup>nd</sup> Federal Register Notice included guidelines for Traffic Safety Information System Improvement grant program (Section 408). The MMUCC and NEMSIS programs were named as standards for this traffic safety initiative.
- Mr. Gam Wijetunge provided an update on the EMS workforce program. UCSF is in the process of finalizing dates for the 2nd EMS Stakeholders meeting. At the meeting the findings of the multi-year assessment will be provided for review. UCSF has updated the blog on the [www.emsworkforce.com](http://www.emsworkforce.com) website and has asked field providers to answer questions by researchers to help enhance their findings.
- Ms. Laurie Flaherty reported that an RFP is imminent for the design phase of the Next Generation 911 System. This RFP will lead to the development of the system architecture and a migration plan for the new system.
- The Technology and EMS project is a joint effort with the National Association of EMS Physicians. This project is intended to design a template and process for the evaluation of technology before it is deployed in EMS.
- Mr. Dave Bryson provided an update on the National EMS Education Standards project. He began by reviewing the five components of the EMS Education Agenda as follows; the National EMS Core Content (completed), the National EMS Scope of Practice Model (completed), the National EMS Education Standards, National EMS Education Program Accreditation and National EMS Certification are currently under development. There will be a stakeholders meeting for the National EMS Education Standards project on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd at the Hilton in Silver Spring, Maryland. The goal of the stakeholder meeting is to get EMS community opinion and agreement on the proposed format of the education standards.

- Mr. Dawson reported that NHTSA EMS is working closely with the Federal Highway Administration on their strategic highway safety planning initiative. In particular, NHTSA is working with the State EMS Directors to coordinate highway safety efforts. The next step is to conduct a series of stakeholders meetings around the country to gather information and develop support for the initiative.

For more information regarding the NHTSA Projects, please refer to the NHTSA EMS Update distributed at the meeting.

## **VI. REPORTS – OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

International Association of Fire Chiefs: Mr. Lucian Deaton

Mr. Deaton reported that IAFC is following the 2007 budget closely for EMS related impacts. IAFC is also gathering and providing information on the Pandemic Flu situation and its impact on the EMS community. For further information please visit their website at [www.iacf.org/birdflu](http://www.iacf.org/birdflu).

American Integrated Training Systems: Mr. Bill Rutherford

Mr. Rutherford reported that the Ambulance Safety subcommittee has been looking into the use of simulators for training purposes. Research has discovered a void where departments that own simulation equipment are not buying the support to keep the simulators running, additionally they are not buying the software required to develop scenarios to customize the simulators to emulate localized conditions, and they are not collecting data needed to prevent future accidents.

AITs is working with Tomko Insurance Company (Bill Leonard) to develop a three day EMS supervisors training course. The course is designed to target first line supervisors.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Mr. Dave Finger

Mr. Finger announced the NVFC Annual Spring Conference to be held the first week of April in Washington DC. For more information including the agenda visit [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).

American Ambulance Association: Kurt Krumperman

Mr. Krumperman is working to influence the Stafford Act to include Ambulance service in the definition of emergency work and making sure that public and private sector ambulance services are eligible as contractors for disaster response.

Mr. Krumperman reported on the Reynolds-Lott bill as it relates to Medicare funding for ambulance service. The bill is basing ambulance service funding on the most recent cost study that is due out of GAO in April.

The AAA will be watching for the results of the IOM report.

Yale University School of Medicine, National Association of EMS Physicians: Dr. Sandy Bugocki

Ms. Bugocki announced the development of two Medical Director course offerings, a one day course is available for local delivery and a three day course that can be offered through the NAMSP conference.

Tomko Insurance: Bill Leonard

Mr. Leonard announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Safetynet seminar for the private sector on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta, Ga. The focus will be on safety and risk management as it pertains to medical transportation.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Dawson addressed the subject of the Federal Government's response to the Avian Flu pandemic. The National Pandemic Flu Strategy outlines the broad parameters of the nation's preparation and response. The National Implementation Plan will provide guidance from the Homeland Security Council to each Federal Agency. Once the guidance is complete, each agency will be responsible for completing their assigned tasks. The Implementation Plan is currently being finalized. NHTSA EMS has been working to assure the inclusion of EMS in the plan. Mr. Dawson asked for comments on items of importance to the community that should be considered by federal agencies in moving forward.

Mr. Krumperman noted the following general areas of interest that should be considered by agencies:

Guidance on protective measures and protective devices for EMS technicians.  
What are the protocols specific to clinical care?  
What are the Protocols for triage and transportation?  
How does EMS operate in quarantine areas?

Mr. Deaton suggested that there be a clear set of distribution guidelines for the national stockpile of antivirals and vaccine.

Mr. John Hoyle of EMI suggested coordination with the suppliers of equipment medical supplies specifically the N95 masks, gloves, and goggles, etc.

Dr. Bugocki made mention of an upcoming research conference on the reusability of the N95 masks.

### **Review of Action Items from this meeting:**

- There are no outstanding action items to report.

## **VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS FOLLOWING THIS MEETING**

Ambulance Safety Subcommittee meets at 1:00 p.m.

**IX. NEXT MEETING**

This is the final meeting of the current FICEMS. Under the new legislation a new Federal Interagency Committee on EMS will be created. The statute specifies that the new FICEMS will be composed of persons at the Administrator or Assistant Secretary level. NHTSA is currently working with DHS and HHS to establish the new committee. NHTSA has the responsibility for providing staff support. NHTSA will do its best to keep the community informed of the progress of the new FICEMS.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.